estimate cost of Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II is Rs. 652 89 crore The Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II is in progress.

Task force on flood management and erosion control

4323. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Task Force on flood management and erosion control has recommended levy of one to two per cent on new infrastructures such as roads, building and power plants in the flood prone States for creating a revolving fund of around Rs. 50 crores for emergent flood management schemes;

(b) if so, whether they have pointed out that fund may be kept at the disposal of Ministry;

(c) whether the Task Force was set up at behest of PM to examine causes of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States;

(d) whether this Task Force has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, what are the main recommendations made and what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Task Force on flood management and erosion control which was set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has recommended that a revolving fund of Rs 50.00 crore be made available with the Ministry of Water Resources to take up urgent flood control schemes, especially at the end of the flood season and to mobilize resources for this, a "flood cess" of say 1 to 2 per cent can be levied on all new infrastructure works like roads, buildings, power plants etc. in the flood prone States.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Other main recommendations of the Task Force are increase in plan funds for flood management, provide assistance for maintenance of emabankments, institutional arrangements and outlining immediate, short term and long term measures for flood management.

The report of the Task Force has been circulated to the various Ministries/ Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments. The report of the Task Force is under consideration.

Central assistance to Rajasthan for potable drinking water

†4324 DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of the State with acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan and several districts of the State are facing problem of polluted drinking water having fluoride content in it;

(c) whether Central Government have any plan to provide special economic grant to Rajasthan to provide clean drinking water to the people of Rajasthan by granting special status to Rajasthan under National Water Policy in respect of drinking water crisis in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Some of the State Governments, including Rajasthan, report crisis of potable water, especially during summer months. As per the Comprehensive Action Plan prepared in 1999 to cover all the rural habitations in the country with safe drinking water supply, and the subsequent coverage reported by the Rajasthan State, there are 91,161 Fully Covered, 2785 Not Covered habitations in the State. As per the Water Quality Survey ordered in March, 2000, the State Government has reported 41,072 rural habitation having chemical quality problems out of which 8992 habitations are affected with excess fluoride.

(c) and (d) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The inter-State allocation criterion for ARWSP funds provide for 40% weightage for rural population, 35% for hydrological condition, 15% for Not Covered/ Partially Covered villages and 10% for quality affected villages. The State Government can utilize 15% of the ARWSP annual allocation for tackling

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.